

Dear Accountability Contacts, AEC Leaders and Data Respondents,

I hope this message finds you well. CDE has received feedback from a number of districts that the AEC performance framework adjustments for optional measures was moving too rapidly to adequately prepare. In response, the department has decided to delay implementation of the new more rigorous cut points and the sunseting of optional measures within the AEC performance frameworks for one year. The new cut points that are more permissive based on the “meets” score will be implemented for use this year. These changes, originally slated for the 2026 performance framework cycle, will now take effect beginning with 2027 performance frameworks.

What does this change mean? This adjustment provides AEC schools with one final framework cycle (i.e., 2026) to use cut points and optional measures that had been identified for re-norming or sunset (see [AEC Handbook, pg. 20](#)). For measures that are on the re-norm list, we will continue to use the existing cut points as outlined in the attached lookup document. Measures that were previously identified for sunset will remain available for use through 2026, after which they will be formally retired. For districts using STAR/NWEA MAP, they may continue to use their current methodology such as Growth to Target and the move to percentile only will take place for the 2027 frameworks.

New Optional Measures: Any AEC interested in incorporating new optional measures in their 2026 AEC SPF is still required to participate in the [New Optional Measure Application](#) process. Districts will receive feedback and approval notification of new measures by December 15. [Individual office hours](#) are available from 1-3pm every Tuesday and Thursday.

Why was this change made? The original decision to implement new cut points and sunset existing optional measures was made during Spring 2025, as a result of the [AEC workgroup conversations](#). The technical workgroup recommended implementing cut point re-norming and sunseting for the 2026 performance framework cycle. These timeline changes were included in resources and presentations from this past spring, including the [AEC Handbook](#) and the [March Technical Advisory Panel \(TAP\) meeting](#). However, we heard from additional AEC stakeholders this fall that the implementation timeline was too rapid to get the data collections in place and adjust instruction, if needed, to respond to new expectations. CDE recognizes the need for additional time to support a smooth transition

and offer greater clarity and context around these updates. We are also committed to more explicit and frequent communications during this transition.

Next steps. Updated guidance and calculation documents will be released by Spring 2026 to ensure schools have sufficient time to plan and prepare for the implementation of the new cut points and sunset measures for the 2027 framework cycle.

Summary of Impacts:

<p>Delay on new norms and sunset implementation for 2026</p>	<p>More rigorous re-normed measures and sunset list delayed until 2027.</p> <p>The new cut points that are more permissive based on the meets score will be implemented for use. See the attached cut point look-up document for the individual measure cut points.</p> <p>Districts are able to continue to use a measure that was labeled as sunset in 2026 on the 2026 framework</p> <p>NWEA MAP/STAR can be submitted with the same as previous methodology for 2026 and will move to percentile for 2027.</p>
<p>New Optional Measures Application for 2026</p>	<p>No changes: A district/school who is applying for the use of a measure for the first time must complete the application by Oct 31, 2025.</p>
<p>New norms and sunset implementation for 2027</p>	<p>All re-normed measures and sunset list are fully implemented</p>

If you have any questions on the process (e.g., specific measures, measure norms, application status), please schedule office hours with April Thompson via this [link](#). Office

hours take place on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and have been extended through November.

We appreciate your continued engagement and patience. Don't hesitate to reach out with any questions in the meantime.

Best regards,